

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2634

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PARTY REACTION TO ELECTION RESULTS

1. SUMMARY: THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALL
COMMENDED THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE FOR SHOWING UP AT THE POLLS IN
RECORD NUMBERS AND HAVE CONTRATULATED THE AFM FOR COMPLYING WITH
PROMISE TO HOLD ELECTIONS WITHIN ONE YEAR. WINNERS DISPLAYED
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VARIOUS DEGREES OF PLEASURE; LOSERS VARIOUS TYPES OF SOUR GRAPES.

END SUMMARY.

2. SOCIALIST REACTION (38 PERCENT): TEMPERED JOY:

SOCIALIST LEADERS ARE CLEARLY OVERJOYED WITH THE UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE SHOWING FOR THEIR PARTY. ACCORDING TO A SOARES AIDE, THE PS HAD EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, BUT NOT 38 PERCENT. THE PARTY HAS REFRAINED FROM GLOATING OVER THE RESULTS, AND HAS NOT CRITICIZED OR BELITTLED THE PCP. INSTEAD THE SOCIALISTS HAVE TERMED THE RESULTS A VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE, AND A SIGN OF THEIR POLITICAL MATURITY AND THEIR PREPARATION FOR DEMOCRACY. MORE SPECIFICALLY THE RESULTS INDICATE THE PARTY PREFERENCES OF THE PEOPLE, STATED MARIO SOARES. "FROM NOW ON NO ONE CAN DENY THAT THE PS IS A GREAT PARTY OF THE MASSES, A NATIONAL PARTY, AND A PARTY OF THE PORTUGUESE WITH STRONG ROOTS IN THE WORKING CLASS."

3. PPD REACTION (26 PERCENT): PLEASURE, MIXED WITH RELIEF:

PPD LEADERS HAVE CALLED THE RESULTS "A GREAT VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL," AND A CLEAR SIGN THAT THE PEOPLE WANT LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM. UNLIKE THE SOCIALISTS, THE PPD CRITICIZED THE PCP AS WELL AS NATIONAL TELEVISION FOR ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ELECTORAL RESULTS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE RESULTS IN THE NORTH WHERE THE PPD DID BEST. THE PPD REJECTED ARGUMENTS THAT NORTHERN VOTERS ARE MORE POLITICALLY UNSOPHISTICATED THAN THOSE IN THE SOUTH WHERE THE PCP DID WELL. ACCORDING TO THE PPD, THE LARGE TURNOUT AND THE RESULTS DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PEOPLE ARE POLITICALLY MATURE ENOUGH TO DECIDE DEMOCRATICALLY THEIR DESTINY.

4. PCP REACTION (13 PERCENT): EXCUSES, EXCUSES:

PCP LEADERS CLAIMED THAT THE TRUE FORCE OF THE PARTY IN PORTUGAL SHOULD BE MEASURED BY THE VOTE FOR THE PARTY IN THE SOUTH, NOT IN THE NORTH, WHERE REACTIONARIES CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE PCP. THE PCP, AS EXPECTED, SAID THAT SUFFICIENTLY FREE CONDITIONS FOR ELECTIONS DO NOT EXIST IN THE NORTH, AND THEREFORE THE RESULTS THERE LACK SIGNIFICANCE AS A TEST OF POPULAR WILL. THE PARTY SAID THAT ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA IN THE MEDIA, AND INTERNATIONAL THREATS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PORTUGAL WERE ITS PEOPLE TO VOTE IN GREAT NUMBERS FOR THE PCP, ALSO INFLUENCED THE VOTE TOTALS OF THE PARTY. PCP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERS, HOWEVER, HAVE PREFERRED TO INTERPRET THE RESULTS AS ABOVE ALL A SIGN THAT THE PORTUGUESE DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO THE PAST AND AS A VOTE OF APPROVAL FOR A SOCIALISTIC FUTURE FOR PORTUGAL.

5. CDS REACTION (8 PERCENT): KEEP SMILING:

CDS SPOKESMAN HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE ELECTORAL RESULTS SHOULD BE VIEWED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS: FIRST, AS A SIGN THAT PORTUGUESE

CONTINUE TO VOTE FOR PERSONALITIES (READ SOREAS) OVER PROGRAMS; SECONDLY, AS SUPPORT FOR A WESTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC MODEL, A CONCLUSION WHICH STEMS FROM COMBINING THE VOTES OF THE PPD AND PS. THE CDS BLAMED ITS LOW SHOWING ON THE FOLLOWING FACTORS; IT DID NOT RUN AN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN, AND HENCE ANTI-COMMUNISTS FOR TACTICAL REASONS VOTED PPD AND PS; THE RIGHT DID NOT VOTE FOR A CENTRIST PARTY LIKE THE CDS BECAUSE THEY SOUGHT THE SECURITY OF LEFTIST PARTIES WHO DO NOT ATTRACT VIOLENCE AND PHYSICAL ATTACKS. THE CDS SUGGESTED THAT A PS-PPD-CDS EUROPEAN TYPE COALITION BE FORMED IN THE FUTURE, AND STATED THAT ITS PRESENCE IN THE COALITION COULD BE USEFUL IN ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO THE COUNTRY.

6. MDP (4 PERCENT): SOUR GRAPES:
PARTY LEADER PEREIRA DE MOURA, SEEKING TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS PARTY AT THE POLLS, HAS TOLD PRESS THAT MDP'S MAIN ELECTORAL GOALS WERE TO AROUSE CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS OF CITIZENS, AND GET THEM TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE. PARTY DID NOT SEEK TO OBTAIN VOTES, SINCE THESE ELECTIONS AND FUTURE ONES ARE NOT A DECISIVE PART OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. PEREIRA DE MOURA WARNED OTHER PARTIES AGAINST MAINTENANCE OF ILLUSION THAT SOCIALISM CAN COME ABOUT THROUGH ELECTIONS. MDP WILL CONTINUE TO TRAVEL "MUCH MORE REVOLUTIONARY PATHS TO SOCIALISM." THE VOTES OBTAINED BY THE MDP ARE NOT A TRUE INDICATION OF THE REAL FORCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTY.
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